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From the Reference Desk

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of the conventional **Shakespeare** story was too pleasing to him to consider any other point of view about the Bard.

His zeal was misdirected, though. As one correspondent (not me) wrote in a letter to the editor in response to that un-review: “[Y]ou have my personal guarantee that reading this book won’t vacuum the poetry from your life. In fact, the larger lesson of the book is that artistic inspiration isn’t a lightning bolt from some mysterious divine cloud, but a product of one’s own experiences, real life, and hard work. What could be more poetic than that?”

JR: *Do you think that there will ever be a “smoking gun” to prove the authorship either way? Could Shakespeare and de Vere ever have collaborated and do you think evidence for that will ever be found?*

MA: It depends on the day, **John**. Sometimes it seems like the circumstantial evidence for **de Vere** as “**Shakespeare**” keeps piling on — but that there will never be a breakthrough. It’ll just be an ossified orthodoxy holding down the Stratford fort for ever and ever amen. But other days it feels a lot more like this is all building to something big, something within our lifetimes. It won’t be tomorrow... but the day after? Well... who knows?

As for **de Vere**’s relationship with the actor and entrepreneur (and, it seems, front-man) **Will Shakspeare** of Stratford: That’s an open and active area of research. **Amy Freed**’s recent speculative comedy *The Beard of Avon* supposes that **de Vere** and **Shakspeare** of Stratford worked together. I haven’t yet seen the play, but I wouldn’t be surprised if there was some degree of back-and-forth in that relationship. Perhaps something along the lines of **de Vere** writes these plays for the courtly stage in the 1570s and ’80s and then adapts them for the public stage in the ’90s and ’00s — but **Shakspeare**, the man-on-the-scene reports back what parts of what play need tightening or revision... and what bits are the crowd-pleasers. It’s just speculation, but I certainly see that kind of scenario as very feasible.

JR: *Let’s talk a little about the technology you employed in writing and disseminating *Shakespeare by Another Name*. You were telling me about how you promoted your book early on using “podcasts.” Could you tell us a little more about that?*

MA: Technology played an important role in both researching and then later in promoting *Shakespeare By Another Name*. Later one first: I’ve been a radio buff for as long as I can remember. My father always had Minnesota Public Radio playing in the background in our house when I was growing up. I remember vividly waking up on cold Minnesota mornings in the winter and hearing **Garrison Keillor**’s morning show — back when he did both a drive-time program on MPR and then the Prairie Home Companion on Sat-

urday nights. Then when I went to college, I got into college radio — an interest that continued during my graduate school years at the **University of Massachusetts**. I still do occasional programs at the **UMass** station **WMUA**. So when I finished writing the book at the end of last year, it seemed that actually telling parts of the story could make for some great “radio.” I put that word in quotes because podcasting — the recording of audio programming that is then converted to mp3 files and downloaded over the Internet, often to people’s iPods or other portable music players is the medium that seemed most suitable for this material. So with the kind assistance of a number of talented Shakespearean actors as well as a couple friends who had both the know-how and equipment to do professional-quality on-location recording, we set out to recording a number of **Shakespeare** scenes and vignettes as well as some of **de Vere**’s letters and other Elizabethan texts. Then my wife and I took these raw materials into the production studio at **WMUA** over this past spring and early summer and told the story — of **de Vere**’s life and of “**Shakespeare**” — that connects these audio excerpts together.

The “**Shakespeare-upon-iPod**” podcasts, as I’ve dubbed them, are the result. You can hear them on the Web at shakespearebyanothername.com/audio.

JR: *What libraries were most important for your research? Did you have access to many documents through digitized archives available on the Web?*

MA: I spent countless hours in the **Five College Library** system that is made up of the **University of Massachusetts**, **Smith**, **Amherst**, **Mt. Holyoke** and **Hampshire Colleges** over these past 10+ years — both in poring over their superb collections of books and journals and in utilizing the latest and best in online scholarly databases such as **J-STOR**, **EEBO**, **LION**, **MUSE**, **Questia**, and others. Many of the 2000 endnotes in this book trace back to resources that were available to me as a patron of this excellent library system. Many

others, however, come from the shoe leather work of tracking down old and obscure books and articles and documents and theses and the like that no one has yet bothered to bring into the digital world: everything from **Harvard** and **Yale**’s libraries to smaller and more specialized collections such as **Holy Cross College** in Worcester. If I were living in some remote corner of Alaska — with access to the right kinds of online resources — I probably would have been able to do about 30% of the research required for *Shakespeare By Another Name*. Considering the amount of material that represents, that number, I think, is still pretty impressive.

JR: *You worked with a compact-flash USB pocket drive storage unit during your library research. Can you tell us a little about how that aided your note taking?*

MA: The compact-flash USB pocket drive has become my best friend over the past couple years. When I would start a new chapter of the book, the first thing I’d do is grab my stacks of index cards that I’d compiled from c. 2000 onwards and I’d pull out everything that looked remotely interesting or relevant to the chapter at hand. And then I’d just scour the scholarly databases with keyword searches for the subjects I’d be writing about. On some searches I’d turn up a dozen or more papers of relevance — all of which would then get dropped onto the pocket drive. Now sometimes those dozen papers ended up as just one sentence in the book... but it was a sentence with one hefty endnote! It’s the only way I know how to write a book like this: work and work to gather all the information possible on a topic and then write a great paragraph on that subject. Then, when that’s done, it’s back to the mines!

JR: *Mark, I truly enjoyed your book, both as a refreshing look at the evidence and as an extremely well written piece of prose. I think that anyone with an interest in the de Vere/Shakespeare question will find your book to be a fresh look at the evidence and a rewarding exploration that serves to add even more depth to our experience of the plays.*

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

There has been a need for a comprehensive, but up-to-date, scholarly reference work covering World War II. The most recent serious attempt was the well received 1995 *Oxford Companion to the Second World War* (0192141686, \$59.98 from **Amazon**). Now comes **ABC-CLIO**’s publication of the *Encyclopedia of World War II: A Political,*

Social, and Military History (2005, 1576079996, \$485). It was worth the wait.

Editor, **Spencer C. Tucker** adds to his impressive list of military references with this five volume set. There are some 1500 articles in the first 4 volumes while the last volume contains 238 related historic documents, as well as a thorough index. Naturally the articles cover a broad range of topics including the causes and origins of the war, individual battles, military campaigns and operations, weapons and armament, tactics and logistics, resistance movements, intelligence, conferences and treaties, as well as both well, and lesser known, personalities. There are

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also article on subjects like the literature of World War II, film in the war, the role played by women, the use of propaganda and the impact of journalism, the Catholic Church and the war, and the home fronts in each of the major combatants. In addition, there are entries for individual countries including less prominent nations like Estonia, Mexico, and Syria while the major players have multiple entries. Each article has a brief bibliography and related articles are linked by a number of "see also" references. Straightforward and factual, the essays in this set will be useful to high school and college students, as well as lay readers. The only feature that might enhance the set would be a thematic index or table of contents, but the level of cross referencing helps compensate for this shortfall. The set is vividly illustrated with black & white photos, numerous maps and scattered charts and sidebars. The print is clear and easy to read. In short, this is a handsome set with high production values.

The *Encyclopedia of World War II: A Political, Social, and Military History* will find a welcome home in public, academic and high school libraries. Serious students, casual readers and World War II buffs alike will enjoy thumbing through these pages. Comprehensive and informed by the latest scholarship, this encyclopedia will be a standard reference work in the area for a variety of audiences.

The *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* (2005, 0974309117, \$475) is another work that will find a broad audience. Editors **David Levinson** and **Karen Christensen** have done more than update their 1996 effort, the *Encyclopedia of World Sport* published by ABC-CLIO. In this new set, released by their own **Berkshire** publishing group, they have expanded the focus and its coverage. While the history and development of the individual sports is still a major component, there is equal attention paid to social issues and other sports topics like the media, youth sports, and the sports industry. In addition, medical issues are discussed in entries covering AIDS and HIV, Anemia, Disordered Eating, Injury, Pain and Sports Medicine.

Added value is provided by engaging illustrations and photos, as well as numerous sidebars, tables and charts. Other features expected in a high quality set are also here. Each article has a list of further readings, solid cross referencing, and a thorough general index and reader's guide arranging articles by category. Examining these four volumes, you are left with a sense of scope and comprehensiveness not afforded by other sports references. However there is one caveat. This is not the place to look for records, statistics or your favorite players. The emphasis is on the broader picture offering a serious look at historic development and the place sports occupies in our world.

The *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* will get a lot of mileage in academic collections supporting sports and physical education programs, as well as public libraries where interest in sports is strong. High school libraries that can afford the price will also benefit. In short, this work should find a welcomed place in a number of libraries.

Libraries interested in more specific treatments might consider titles like **Macmillan's Encyclopedia of Sports Science** (1997, 0028646665, \$282.75) **McFarland's Professional Sports Statistics** (1997, 0786402997, \$195) and one sport encyclopedia like the eighth edition of *Total Baseball* (2004, 189496327X, \$59.95).

Sage's Encyclopedia of Politics: The Left and the Right (2005, 1412904099, \$295) attempts to define this enduring dichotomy in political life. As described in Editor **Rodney P. Carlisle's** introduction, the terms left and right have their origins in the French Revolution where the status quo Girondins sat on the right of the assembly while the radical Jacobins sat on the left. His introduction also shows how difficult it can be to pigeonhole policies and personalities into these neat categories. Political positions and individual careers are

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RUSA SIDEBAR

The New Encyclopedia of the Occult, edited by **John Michael Greer**. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 2004. (1-56718-336-0). 555p. \$29.95.

Encyclopedia of Protestantism, edited by **Hans J. Hillerbrand**. 4 vols. Routledge, 2004. (0-415-92472-3). 2,224p. \$695.00.

Encyclopedia of Buddhism, edited by **Robert E. Buswell, Jr.** 2 vols. New York: Macmillan Reference, Thomson/Gale, 2004.

Encyclopedia of American Social Movements, edited by **Immanuel Ness**. 4 vols. Armonk, NY: Sharpe, 2004. (ISBN: 0-7656-8045-9), 1157p. \$399.00.

Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood: in History and Society, edited by **Paula S. Fass**. 3 vols. New York: Macmillan Reference USA; Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson/Gale, 2004. (0028657144), \$325.00.

Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered History in America, edited by **Marc Stein**. 3 vols. 1200p. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004. (0-684-31261-1), \$380.

The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods, edited by **Michael S. Lewis-Beck, Alan Bryman, and Tim Futing Liao**. 1528p. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2004. (0-7619-2363-2), \$550.

Major Acts of Congress, edited by **Brian K. Landsberg**. 3 vols. MacMillan Reference USA, 2003. (0028657497), 1178p. \$305.00.

Encyclopedia of Homelessness, edited by **David Levinson**. 2 vols. Sage, 2004. (0761927514), 928p. \$295.00.

Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion, edited by **Valerie Steele**. 3 vols. Thomson/Gale, 2005. (0684313944), \$345.00.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America, edited by **Andrew F. Smith**. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. (019-515437-1), \$195.00.

The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus, compiled by **Christine Lindberg**. New York: Oxford, 2004. (ISBN: 0195170768). 1128p. \$40.00.

Chemistry Foundations and Applications, by **J. J. Lagowski**. 4 vols. New York: McMillan Reference, 2004. (0-028-65722-5), 1246p. \$395.00.

Encyclopedia of Leadership, edited by **George R. Goethals, Georgia J. Sorenson, James MacGregor Burns**. 4 vols. Sage Publications, 2004. (076192597X), \$595.00.

Atlas of World Art, edited by **John Onians**. Oxford University Press, 2004. (0195215834), 352p. \$150.00.

Encyclopedia of 20th Century Architecture, edited by **R. Stephen Sennott**. 3 vols. Fitzroy Dearborn, 2003. (1-57958-243-5). 1,568p. \$525.

The Oxford Companion to Chaucer, edited by **Douglas Grey**. Oxford University Press, 2003. (0-19-811765-5), 526p. \$95.00.

Encyclopedia of African History, edited by **Kevin Shillington**. 3 vols. Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004. (1-57958-245-1), 1,912p. \$495.00.

Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, edited by **David J. Wishart**. Lincoln and London: Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska Press, 2004. (0803247877).

Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, edited by **Richard C. Martin**. 2 vols. New York: Macmillan Reference/Thomson Gale, 2004. (0028656032), \$225.00.

New Dictionary of the History of Ideas, by **Maryanne Cline Horowitz**. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004. (0684313774), 3600p. \$595.00.

Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure in America, edited by **Gary S. Cross**. 2 vols. Detroit: Charles Scribner, 2004. (0-684-31265-4), 800p. \$240.00.

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often so complicated that they “may defy simple categorization.” For example, both isolationism and globalization are classified as rightist movements which at first might seem contradictory. However, globalization is being defined in terms of the spread of multinational corporations and the reduction of trade barriers, not as the promotion of one-world government as feared by some conservatives. By explaining the nuances of such concepts, the *Encyclopedia* offers needed guidance as to how the left and right are understood in our political discourse.

The *Encyclopedia* is in two volumes, one devoted to the politics of the left, the other devoted to the politics of the right. There are articles from both perspectives on 41 different regions and countries, as well as those on specific issues, laws, political parties, movements, and topics like imperialism and unilateralism. The general index at the back of volume two helps pull the two volumes together, as does a topical reader's guide and “see also” references. Other helpful features include a timeline of politics, a brief resource guide of books periodicals and Websites, and a 62 page glossary.

Encyclopedia of Politics: The Left and the Right will be valuable to the political neophyte as well as the seasoned observer. It helps reveal cross-currents that will both clarify and cause debate, thus serving as a resource and stimulating additional thought. While this is a scholarly work written by experts in the field, it is reader friendly and accessible. Both academic libraries and larger public libraries will do well to add it to their collections.

The *Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (2005, 1579583911 \$350) was recently published by **Fitzroy Dearborn**. It provides 508 articles written by 288 scholars from 34 countries in an easy to use alphabetically arrangement. While scholarly and intended for an academic audience, each article introduces its topic without “presupposing knowledge of the subject” thus lending context to the specific points raised in the article. An analytical index, cross references, and a thematic table of contents offer further routes of exploration, as well as help link related articles together. There are also 12 language distribution maps and more than 100 illustrations that provide visual variety, as well as adding clarification to the text.

Approximately half of the essays cover topics related to broad categories like phonology, morphology, linguistic approaches, syntax, semantics and language acquisition, among others. Additional articles discuss specific languages and language families as well as pidgins and creoles along with individual regions and countries. There are also brief sketches of influential linguists emphasizing their contributions to the field.

While it in no way replaces the *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics* released in 2003 by **Oxford University Press** (0195139771, \$450), this **Fitzroy-Dearborn** effort is a worthy complement. Although less comprehensive, the


Encyclopedia of Linguistics has a number of attractive qualities to recommend it. In fact, it may have more appeal to smaller collections preferring a handy two volume set to the more imposing four-volume **Oxford** work. Larger collections, both academic and public, should make room on their shelves for both.

Entertainment Awards: A Music, Cinema, Theatre and Broadcasting Guide, 1928 through 2003 (2005, 0786417986, \$75) by **Don Franks** is another one of those labors of love published by **McFarland**. Now in its 3rd edition, **Franks** has added ten more years of coverage and included another seven awards to the 13 awards covered in the 2nd edition. New to this edition are the American Music Awards, Academy of Country Music Awards, the Drama Desk Awards, the National Broadway Theatre Awards, The National Association of Broadcasters Awards, and the American Film Institute Awards for both Film and Television.

The arrangement is logical and easy to follow. The book is divided into four major sections; music, theatre, cinema and broadcasting. Within each of these sections are listed the relevant awards, introduced by a brief background and description of the award followed by a chronological listing of annual awards winners in each category. Each award winner is assigned an entry number which is referenced

in the name and title indexes in the back of the book. These indexes, while helpful, suffer from the same problem that many such indexes have. They are not subcategorized so multiple award winners like singer/composer **Willie Nelson** and films like *Titanic* are followed by numerous entry numbers. The television program *Hallmark Hall of Fame* is followed by 75 such entries. And as you might expect with this number of entries, there are a few mistakes. The first entry number listed for the *Hallmark Hall of Fame* actually references an American Music Award given to **Faith Hill** for Pop/Rock Favorite Female artist in 2000.

These problems aside, *Entertainment Awards* is a rich compendium of fascinating and interesting facts that will appeal to both the trivia buff and the serious student of the entertainment industry. Public libraries in particular will want a copy, many for their ready reference collections. One thing **Mr. Franks** might consider for future editions is the inclusion of some of the major minority awards like the BET Black Entertainment Awards and the Imagen Awards for distinguished Latino entertainment.

And as I did last year, I have included the list of the **2005 Outstanding Reference Sources** for small and medium-sized libraries as announced by the **Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)**. 

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings



Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
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Column Editor's Note: Linguistic trivia seems somehow germane to reference services, for reference librarians never know when a morsel of seemingly-inconsequential information might come in handy! ATG habitual reviewer Phillip Powell explores two new language/vocabulary titles from Oxford

Press to add to your reference (or circulating) collection. ATG newcomer Christine Bombaro examines ALA's Conflict Management for Libraries, which covers issues important not only to reference departments, but to entire library institutions. Happy reading, everyone! — DV

Dent, Susie. *Larpers and Shroomers: The Language Report*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. 0198610122. 174 pages. \$16.95.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
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What an odd little book — and that is said in the most complimentary fashion! It is terrific reading, but it really is difficult to categorize except that it mostly covers contemporary words and their usages. Initially, the reader assumes it is a dictionary filled with words such as larper and shroomer (of course), velcroid, globesity, retrosexual, and juijy. Some inclusions were understood because they had been heard before through usage; by association with people cooler than the reviewer; or by watching TV. Others were guessed by using context

clues. Yet again, other inclusions didn't jog the knowledge base because they were heard in the UK or some other English speaking country, but not in the US.

Essay chapters discussing a wide array of topics are also interspersed throughout the book. Although they do not follow the anticipated dictionary arrangement, they do explain language changes rather like the bibliographic essay. There is also the occasional hybrid chapter where essay and dictionary meet as in the chapter

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